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THE SCHOOLS AND CRITICS.

The publication by the Advertiser a week ago of an account of the really interesting experiment that is going on in the "School City" of the Royal School, together with a previous account of the proposal to teach the elements of cooking in schools all over the islands, seems to have let loose an extended discussion of the public schools and the public school system. Whatever the cause, the discussion can not but do good. If the system is wrong, or if particular features of it are wrong, nothing is so likely to correct them as good wholesome discussion. If the system is well designed, or if there are admirable features in it, nothing will so bring out these and set them so squarely before the public as general discussion.

Viewed in this light, there is nothing disquieting in the criticisms that have been publicly made. Besides being wholesome they are interesting. They are interesting in their classification. The most noticeable class among these criticisms are those based on the good old doctrine of the "three Rs." The inevitable argument of the proponents of the "three Rs" school of education is thoroughness. They insist that the pupil's attention shall not be dissipated nor his efforts frittered away on a variety of subjects, but that line upon line, precept upon precept, the three Rs shall be taught him until they are thoroughly mastered. Such critics do not realize that thoroughness is not thoroughness, and that in a world where infinite variety in nature challenges the interest of children, and all others who will not close their eyes and ears, it is as barbarous as foot-binding to try and bind and limit the developing and growing mind to three subjects, and they, from their mature, abstract ones, that the child ought to learn as a sequence of other things and not as the summum bonum of education.

Then there are those who oppose experiments or change for fear teachers or principals will not perform their whole duty, or will shunt their duties off on to the pupils, or to the officers of "school cities," or on to home study, or in some other way wriggle out of what they are paid to do.

It may be set down as a certainty that no false-loving teacher will ever adopt innovations. The good old routine is the easy way. No principal anxious to earn his money at the least cost of effort to himself will ever start a "School City." All innovations and all experiments in school curricula are not necessarily wise ones. But no progress was ever made without experiment and innovation. Happy the school board which has teachers and principals ready and willing to make experiments and innovations. There is more danger of stagnation and want of progress than there is of unwise innovation.

A third kind of critics is against any kind of manual training. To his mind the child will have to get out and work soon enough, and the few precious years of school age should be devoted strictly to the cultivation of the child's mind, without wasting any of it teaching him to saw, or forge, or handle tools. Yet the experience everywhere, without any exception, is that pupils in manual training schools, on the whole, surpass in the purely academic studies, pupils of their own age in other than manual training schools.

The teaching of cooking is objected to because it is a waste of precious time, and in the case of children of Hawaiian parentage well-nigh criminal to introduce them to the mysteries of civilized cooking. It certainly can not be criminal to teach the children of Hawaiian parentage how to cook and prepare the simple every-day articles of diet in a way so that they will be sanitary and wholesome. Yet that is exactly what it is proposed to do. But even if no child thus taught ever became a cook or ever cooked, a better method of teaching many of the elementary principles of physics, and the principles that exert their influence in every-day life, can not be imagined than by teaching cooking.

The schools are criticized on the one hand, because there are too many play studies, and on the other hand because the pupils are overworked. Some object because so much home study is required; others because baseball, and football, and basketball take up so much time.

Perhaps more parents complain because their children find difficulty in keeping up with all the studies required in the grade, either because of ill health, lack of strength, mental or physical, inattention or some other cause than of any other matter. These complaints are usually the bitterest, too. Yet parents have the remedy in their own hands. Pupils are not required to take all the studies of any grade, if their parents object. Only, of course, unless they do, they can not advance in all studies with the grade, and that is what troubles. It touches the pride. Parents do not like their children to fall behind other children in the same grade. It is easier to find fault with the requirements than to acknowledge that their children are not as strong physically or mentally as other children.

Another class of critics object to everything that is different to what it was when they went to school. It would be a reproach if there had not been progress made in schools and school methods, and progress involves change. Anyone who will make a comparison devoid of bias, between methods of schools and school work a generation and less ago, and now, can not but be struck with the improvements. There were savants before there were schools, and to produce savants something besides schools are necessary. Silk purses can not be made out of sows' ears, and school systems and school methods though they may supply reasons can not supply understanding. Nevertheless there can be no doubt that schools are better than they used to be, and that the average product and result is better. And it is a source of congratulation that Hawaii stands so well pedagogically and in the matter of schools as it does, and that there is among the teachers and principals and in the Board of Education a willingness to seek and attempt improvements.

AALA PARK.

Of all the parks and public places in Honolulu, there is not one which so well serves so many people as Aala park. Its good influence is incalculable. As an institution for conserving the public peace it is unrivaled. It is better than policemen. It is at least the equivalent of a hospital. As giving opportunity for wholesome physical exercise, and as a standing invitation to fresh air and health, there is nothing to compare with it.

Day or night within reasonable hours, as recognized by police authority, it is never unoccupied. In the forenoon it is the playground of children. At noon and afternoon, youth and young men are there in numbers practicing baseball or other sports. In the evening, ordinarily, it is the rendezvous of people of all ages, all of whom, whatever their motive in coming, unconsciously indulge in fresh air, in out-of-doors. Children come with their elders to play. The elders come to gossip, to meet friends or acquaintances, or to make them. Youth comes for all the purposes for which youth meet.

It is a great People's Forum on occasion when there is some matter, political or otherwise, which the people are interested in. There are no popular gatherings anywhere in the city, or the islands, that equal in numbers those of Aala park. No band concerts equal in attendance those that are given here.

It is the People's playground of the city, par excellence. No baseball games, anywhere, near equal in attendance those that are played here. Thousands stood in the showery weather of yesterday in order to witness the game that might have decided a championship, and was all the more interesting and exciting because it did not.

There are churches and temples of religion of several different names in the same immediate region as Aala park. But without disparagement of the service that these render, it may safely be said that none of them nor all of them minister to health of mind and body so well, nor to so many, as does Aala park.

To the men who earnestly labored to secure and preserve, and prepare this park, the evidence of its usefulness and service must come as a grateful satisfaction. The most casual survey of what it is and what it does for the community and for thousands of individuals, must be rich compensation for effort put forth. Honolulu has no parks that it can spare. It can least of all spare Aala park.

If Teng Jui-chuan makes good his claim for 2350 yen our former townsman, J. A. M. Johnson, will probably no longer describe himself as Yen Yansen, but as Yen Yansen.

HAWAIIAN HONEY.

According to the trade returns, from those of the first half of 1907 onward, it would appear as if the honey industry of Hawaii were declining. If such were the case it would be a great pity, for apiculture has lately seemed one of the most thriving in the category of diversified industries. Different ones engaged in it are known recently to have been planning for extensions of their enterprise. Happily the trade returns thus far are not to be taken as a criterion of Hawaii's honey crop for 1907. They show a value of \$9909 in shipments of honey to the mainland for the first eight months of this year, against a value of \$15,897 for the corresponding period of 1906, or a decrease of \$5988.

On making inquiry of one of the leading honey producers of the Territory, however, the Advertiser is informed that the season for gathering the product has been delayed this year by the heavy rains of last spring. Two large shipments have gone out within a week, respectively by the steamers Hilonian and Alameda. One of them would make four carloads. These shipments alone will fatten up the returns considerably for the four remaining months of the year to be reported on.

It will be gratefully remembered that Hawaii's honey industry was rescued early this year from a very serious impasse through the personal efforts of Prof. D. L. Van Dine, entomologist of the Hawaii Experiment Station, on his visit to Washington. Owing to the derivation of the nectar here by the little busy chaps extolled by the good Dr. Watts, from the algaroba tree blossoms, Hawaiian honey has imparted to it a color and a content of glucose which, under a strict construction of the pure food law, would condemn it prima facie. The local scientist, though, obtained tests of the Hawaiian product at Washington, which convinced the experts there that it was as pure a honey as could be found. Also, it is understood, they drew the just distinction between the natural glucose in our honey and the artificial glucose that if added to a honey would put it clearly in the adulterated class. Another line of notable service to the local industry, which Mr. Van Dine on that mission performed, was the looking up of improved queen bees and of plants containing bee food along with other economic value.

One of the great advantages of the honey industry to Hawaii is that it can be conducted upon lands that are not esteemed of much value for raising ordinary products of the soil. Apiaries are to be seen right in the district of Honolulu, the food resources of which are in algaroba groves upon a thin stratum of soil covering beds of coral, where it could not be imagined without seeing, that anything of use to man could grow.

A MISLEADING WIRELESS MESSAGE.

There is nothing in the Hawaii Herald about a "special messenger" either to or from the Emperor of Japan on the latter's birthday. That paper says "a message was read that had been sent direct from the Emperor of Japan to his people on Hawaii." The portion of the message which the wireless dispatch to the Advertiser directed to have quoted as verbatim reads thus as printed in the Hilo paper: "Should emergency arise, offer yourselves courageously to the state; and thus guard and maintain the prosperity of our imperial throne co-equal with heaven and earth." The passage came to the Advertiser by wireless reading. "Should emergency arise offer ourselves," etc., which left but one interpretation to the dispatch, namely, that it told of a message to the Emperor. It would not have been news important enough to pay rates on otherwise, for the Advertiser does not agree with the view that the Emperor, in the message, makes a special appeal to the Japanese in Hawaii. It appears rather to be a transcript of an address to his subjects everywhere, at home and abroad, on the celebration of his birthday. Many Japanese in Hawaii offered themselves "courageously to the state" on an emergency arising before. No doubt many would do so again, if they could, in similar circumstances. That, if the emergency were not inimical to the flag over Hawaii, is just what they ought to do. And it is too much to believe, at this stage of the game, that the Emperor had faintest thought of an emergency of that kind in his mind in dictating any message intended by him to be conveyed "direct" to his subjects under the American flag. Any contrary supposition would be insulting to the intelligence of His Imperial Majesty.

Because fifty-seven have died in San Francisco within the last three months or so, of plague, it is thought a matter of sufficient news interest to cable to the world's end. Yet there are that many murders in a year in San Francisco, and probably nearly a hundred times as many deaths from consumption, and nothing is said about it. The truth is that the average man is just about as liable to be murdered in San Francisco as he is to die of plague, and he is fully a hundred times as liable to die of tuberculosis.

The French Republic has granted a pension of \$470 a year to Captain Dreyfus. Some Republics are more ungrateful than others. In the United States there is many a bounty jumper who never saw any real military service who is getting a bigger pension than that.

If Hawaiian politics were managed as well as Hawaiian sugar plantations, all these years, what a gem of the ocean would Hawaii have become by now!

Now that Taft has received Aguinaldo's endorsement what more does he need?

MISLEADING HILO MESSAGE
ECHOES IN WASHINGTON

(Continued from Page One.)

WASHINGTON, November 12.—Ambassador Aoki, in an interview yesterday, declared that the receipt sent out by the Mikado on the occasion of his birthday, to the Japanese of Hawaii, commanding them to courageously offer themselves to the State in the event of an emergency, is worded in the same manner as the message sent out by him to all his subjects in all parts of the world for the past seventeen years.

PARIS, November 10.—Captain Dreyfus has been granted an annual pension of four hundred and seventy dollars.

WASHINGTON, November 11.—The annual report which Secretary Taft will submit to Congress will include estimates of \$5,525,920 for construction and maintenance of Coast Artillery.

TOULON, France, November 11.—Five ringleaders of what appears to be an association of international spies have been arrested for trafficking in military and naval secrets.

ST. PETERSBURG, November 11.—The first direct news from Kartag has been received. There were 10,400 victims of the landslide.

LIQUEUR, Chile, November 11.—A fire occurred here, involving a loss of a million dollars and rendering 2000 homeless.

BARCELONA, Spain, November 11.—An earthquake in this region caused a serious landslide at the village of Vilcombre.

ROME, Italy, November 11.—There have been severe floods in Italy, and immense damage has been done. Some lives have been lost.

RIO JANEIRO, Brazil, November 11.—The United States cruisers Tennessee and Washington have sailed for Montevideo.

ST. PETERSBURG, November 11.—The Russian Parliament will meet November 14. In the recent election the reactionaries were successful.

VLADIVOSTOK, November 11.—The government has seized arms and ammunition and correspondence of the revolutionary organization, which includes members of the military companies.

PORTSMOUTH, November 11.—The Kaiser and Empress of Germany arrived today for a visit with the British King.

SAN FRANCISCO, November 11.—The All-Star team that is to go to Hawaii played a picked nine today with Joy in the box. The first game resulted in a tie under the time limit. The second game was won by the All-Star team by a score of six to two.

PARIS, November 12.—Anna Gould has authorized the Associated Press to deny the report that she is to be married to the Duke of Sagan, of Prussia.

WASHINGTON, November 12.—It has been officially announced that the Presidents of Honduras and Nicaragua have met and that cordial relations between the two republics have been re-established.

SEATTLE, November 12.—In a streetcar collision here yesterday, between two crowded cars, forty persons were injured.

RIO JANEIRO, November 12.—Peruvian troops have invaded Brazil and attacked a Brazilian fort, capturing it.

J. A. M. JOHNSON
IS SUED IN JAPAN

The Japan Gazette of October 19 contains the following which will be of interest to the very wide circle of acquaintances J. A. M. Johnson had in these islands where he was in business for a number of years:

On the morning of the 16th in the Yokohama District Court, before Judge Murakami, the hearing was commenced of a suit instituted by Teng Jui-chuan, a Chinese resident at No. 185, Yamashita-cho, against Mr. J. A. M. Johnson, managing director of the Nippon Kokoku Boyeki Kabushiki Kaisha, No. 70-c, Yamashita-cho, Yokohama, claiming the payment of Y.350 as the balance of salary and the recovery of security money, amounting to Y.2000.

Plaintiff was represented by Messrs. Hiraoka and Murofushi and Mr. Sawada appeared for defendant.

Mr. Hiraoka prayed the court that the defendant be ordered to pay the claim and stated as the ground of the claims that since September 10, 1906, the defendant company had employed plaintiff under the contract that no salary would be paid for the first two months in order to examine plaintiff's ability, after which Y.100 would be paid per month for one year. Plaintiff had then lodged with the company the sum of Y.2000 as personal security. Despite the said contract, the defendant company discharged plaintiff on August 31, this year without giving the reason. Therefore, plaintiff demanded of the company the return of the said security and the payment of salary till November next under the yearly contract, but the defendant company only paid Y.50, or half the salary for the month of August, having refused to pay the remainder and refund the security money. Hence the suit.

The counsel continued that of plaintiff's claim Y.50 is the balance of salary for August and Y.300 for September, October and November, 1907.

Mr. Sawada asked the court that the claim be dismissed.

He stated that defendants had recognized plaintiff's statement, but it must be contended that the defendant company employed plaintiff as a salesman for the purpose of selling the company's cash register in China instead of in Japan. For the above purpose, the company taught him the construction of the instrument and the method of its manipulation. It proved too difficult for him to learn the method, though any other might have learnt it in one month only. In order to train him, a school teacher and an expert had been employed, but without effect. For this reason, the defendant company discharged him on August 31, 1907, so that the claim of plaintiff was unjustifiable. Plaintiff's counsel asked why the company did not discharge plaintiff upon the expiration of the first two months if plaintiff had been incapable of dealing with the instrument.

At this stage plaintiff's counsel produced to the court Exhibits A, Nos. 1 and 2. It was proved by Exhibit No. 1 that there was a contract concluded between the parties and also by Exhibit A, No. 2 that plaintiff had lodged with the defendant company Y.2000.

Defendants' counsel again insisted that defendants employed plaintiff as a salesman for China and additionally as over-seer of salesmen in China, and that if there were necessity of employing any salesman in Japan, some Japanese would have been employed for the benefit of the company in regard to the language, etc.

The counsel of defendants prayed the court that three witnesses be summoned to prove the fact that plaintiff was incapable of dealing with or selling the company's cash register and to explain the contract between defendant and plaintiff.

The court granted defendants' petition to summon Cho Nishikawa and Kichinojo Nakamura as witnesses.

The proceedings were adjourned till the 2nd of November.

DREDGING AT GUAM,
NO SEISMIC SHIVERS

On Guam things are uninteresting and monotonous. There have been no seismic shivers, nor has anything but good weather been enjoyed of late. The government's dredging operations are continuing. There was no other vessel but the cableship Restorer there when the U. S. S. Justin arrived and left. The American station ship Supply was away.

DR. WEDDICK IS NOW
SANITARY INSPECTOR

WAILUKU, November 9.—At the meeting of the Board of Supervisors this week, Dr. Weddick was appointed sanitary inspector for the Wailuku district at a salary of twenty-five dollars per month, and Thomas Clark was appointed fish, food and hack inspector and humane officer.

The choice will meet with universal approval.—Maui News.

REPAIR DAMAGE
FROM LAVA FLOW

HILO, November 7.—With a communication to the Board of Supervisors, County Attorney Williams submitted yesterday, for their approval, plans and specifications for the new road to be built where the lava flow of last January wiped out the former road and suspended traffic in the Kau district. The plans show that the whole length of new road required on the Kona side is 2482 feet, and 2825 feet on the east side, rather more than a mile in all. The worst grade is 5.66 per cent, but most of the road will be a 2-per cent grade. The road is 1900 feet above sea level.

It is proposed that bids be received in time for acceptance at the meeting of the Board to be held next month, on December 4. The specifications call for a price for excavating and for embankments, separately, per cubic yard, and for full width top dressing at per lineal foot.

TRANSGE CASE
OF POISONING

WAILUKU, November 9.—What was evidently a case of poisoning occurred Tuesday morning and as a result a Japanese woman by the name of Toma lost her life. The woman lived with her two small children and supported them by cooking for a number of Japanese field laborers.

On the morning in question she prepared the breakfast and luncheon of the men and after they had gone took a dose of a white powder and was soon suffering intense agony.

Persons living in adjacent rooms entered her room and found her lying on the bed. They went for Yamashita, an ex-officer boy of a local physician. Witnesses testified that Yamashita gave her medicine, but she soon died.

A coroner's inquest was held and while it was evident that the woman was poisoned there was no evidence as to where she got the medicine that probably caused her death nor from whom she got the same.

An autopsy was performed on the body by Dr. R. H. Dinegar who sent part of the organs to Honolulu to have a chemical analysis made.

The coroner's jury met Tuesday and Wednesday and then adjourned to meet after the result of the analysis is known.

SEVEN CHURCHES
OF HANA DISTRICT

WAILUKU, November 9.—The fair of the Hana Catholic church gathered the biggest crowd ever seen in the Hana district for many years. There were at least 1000 present. The net receipts were \$610.10.

The fair was held in the large and spacious warehouse, of the Hana store and on one side of this large building the booths were erected representing the seven Catholic churches of the Hana district, as each church donated its share of mats, kapas, fans, etc. Keane was presided over by Miss Elizabeth Chong Chong, Nahiku by Miss Ah Tina, Honokalani by Miss Wittrock, Hana by Miss Nani Haia, Pouiki by Miss Keala Kihelu, Kipahulu by Miss Annie Kanamu, Kaupo by Miss Lydia Dusen. The luncheon was held across the road from the fair in the sugar warehouse of the Kaelek-Sugar Company. The Pouiki land led by Father Francis was in attendance.

Some of the older Hawaiians who were too old to make things for the fair came with their hookups, suckling pigs, chickens, potatoes, oranges, and bananas, everything was welcome, as there was an experienced auctioneer here from the Coast, and he gave his services gratis for the good work. In no time everything was disposed of.

Considering throughout the whole district that only a handful of white families are living in it, it was wonderful the way the poor natives of all creeds came to the front and helped the good cause along.

NO SPIES IN THEIRS.

WAILUKU, November 9.—The Maui News says:

It is the fixed policy of the Board of Supervisors to refuse to pay for the services of any spy where he is a party to the crime committed. As a matter of principle this policy can not be questioned and yet it has been pointed out that if this principle is strictly adhered to illicit liquor dealing will greatly increase and it will be almost impossible to secure conviction.

It is not enough that a man should love his wife when she has on a soiled wrapper and her hair is in curl papers; he must tell her of it, and as fervently as in her peach days before he married her.